

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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DPS SELECTS 2003 EXAMINER OF THE YEAR

MONTGOMERY — Montgomery Driver License Examiner Jackie Welch has been honored as the Department of Public Safety's Driver License Examiner of the Year for 2003. Welch, selected from among nominees representing the state's six driver license districts, received the award at a luncheon in Montgomery Jan. 27.

Welch is the eighth winner of the annual award, initiated in 1996 to recognize driver license examiners who exhibit outstanding dedication, professionalism and courtesy on the job. Col. Mike Coppage, Public Safety director, and Maj. Roscoe Howell, chief of Public Safety's Driver License Division, praised Welch and the other nominees for their commitment to their duties and their exceptional service to the people of Alabama.

In addition to Welch, nominees for the award included Cynthia Ash, Birmingham; Carlin Burrow, Decatur; Angela Hill, Mobile; Helen Knoebel, Dothan; and Ruby Love, Tuscaloosa.

Welch joined the Department of Public Safety in 1991. She transferred from Selma to Montgomery in 1992. Throughout her 13 years as an examiner, the job has become more involved, Welch said, yet she continues to "enjoy the people" – the driver license customers and her coworkers.

During the ceremony Howell recognized the state's examiners for their role in promoting the safety of Alabama's roadways through driver testing. He also cited the extensive training in fraud detection received by examiners and praised their success in identifying fraudulent documents submitted by license applicants. During the previous year the Driver License Division reported 4,986 arrests, according to Howell.

A panel of transportation officials from outside the department selected the Examiner of the Year from nominations submitted by driver license district supervisors. The selection committee for this year's awards ceremony includes Harold Hammond, American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators regional chairman; Gene Vonderau, Alabama Trucking Association director of safety; Robert Patterson, R.E. Garrison Trucking; George "Bubba" Bailey, CSX Transportation; and Judy VanLuchene, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration state director.

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